

To Love Your Lord

by S. Baksh

"And among mankind is he who worships Allaah as it were, upon the edge (i.e. in doubt): if good befalls him, he is content therewith; but if a trial befalls him, he turns back on his face (i.e. reverts to disbelief after embracing Islam). He loses both this world and the Hereafter. That is the evident loss." [Al-Hajj (22):11]

Like a cloud bearing rain over drought stricken lands, the month of mercy has come upon us once again. Before this Ramadaan, did you get that feeling deep inside you? Did your heart stir with excitement? Did you start preparing for this blessed month mentally? Was your soul looking forward to bathing in the worship of your Lord?

For some people, the answers to these questions are easy. "Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes every time, Alhamdulillah." But I'm not speaking to those few, fortunate people. I'm speaking to you, my dear brother or sister, who did not feel the 'Ramadaan buzz' this year. Perhaps you have never felt it. And perhaps you want to know why? I will tell you why this is happening. Why you might feel like you are not benefiting from this month. Why the only thing moving inside you is the rumble in your stomach. Why the only thing you are feeling is thirst and weakness. And Allaah knows best.

It is because the greatest void in your body has not been filled. It is because during the long journey of your life, you have lost the hand of your Lord's guidance somewhere along the way. My dear brother or sister, it is because the connection between you and Allaah has been broken.

I'm not telling you this so you will despair. For as surely as there is a sickness in the heart of a believer, Allaah has provided us with a cure for it. And this is a sickness. One that is common in the soul of mankind. The most severe form of love sickness.

Yes, my dear brother or sister, the heart of mankind becomes ill because it yearns for the love of Allaah. It longs for that connection between you and Him. How do we make this bond with Allaah, you may ask? It is very simple. You see, when you love someone in this world, there are a series of feelings that take place in the heart before this person is considered beloved to you. You feel grateful to them, be it for something they have done or merely because they are in your company. You admire them for their good qualities, such as how kind, well mannered, generous, clever and merciful they are. And then you love them. You cherish the bond between you and them. You miss them when they are absent and feel happy when they return.

My beloved, it is the same with Allaah. The same principles are applied when establishing the connection between you and your Lord. The first step to becoming closer to Allaah is by being aware of Him. I will tell you how to do this. Go to your window, my brother or sister, or even better take a step outside. Feel the world around you. Look up at the sun as it crosses the ever changing sky, followed by the moon and the stars. Touch the leaves of the trees, the delicate lines running through each one, the variety of colours, shapes and textures that exist. Taste the individuality of each fruit, each vegetable, and every dish in the world. Listen to the ocean as it moves with the tide or the trickle of a stream as it splashes over rocks and pebbles of all sizes. Take a deep breath

and smell the earth beneath your feet, the freshness of the air. Who created all of this, my dear brother or sister? It is Allaah.

Now you must feel grateful to Him. So close your eyes and imagine that they have been sealed. That this is the state you will remain in for the rest of your life. Know, O' slave of Allaah, that he could make this blindness, this darkness, your reality. If He wanted, He could take away your sight in an instant and you would be powerless against Him. Now place your hand on your chest and feel it rise and fall with each breath you take, feel every beat of your heart. Try to count them. Know, O' slave of Allaah, that He has the power to make each and every breath your last. He could stop your heart from pumping the blood around your body. If He did, you would be dead in minutes and no doctor or surgeon in this world would be able to save you.

Now look at your parents. Not as their child, who sees only their rules and restrictions, their busy schedules or the flaws in their characters. Look at them through the eyes of an orphan, who would do anything to be in your place, to have someone to call 'mother' or 'father', to have a roof continuously over their head and to live in the security of knowing they will have another meal. Know O' slave of Allaah, that He could have given your parent to some other child and left you alone and unloved. If He wished, He could have made you nonexistent. Laa ilaaha illaallaah.

My dear brother or sister, Allaah has blessed you with life, with your sight, with the chance to be obedient to Him and serve Him so that you can earn everlasting pleasure and freedom. So that you can work your way from the Hell-fire and enter into Paradise. Does Allaah not deserve our gratitude for all of this and other countless blessings He has granted us? Subhaanallaah.

Do you know that Allaah is more merciful than a mother to her baby? Do you know that He has more knowledge than the world's most intelligent person? Do you know that He is in control of all things? Do you know that He can cure you when the greatest doctor in the world cannot? Do you know my dear brother or sister that Allaah loves you, even when you make mistakes because you regret what you have done and you want Him to forgive you?

Knowing all of this, O' servant of Allaah, how can you not love Him? Why can't you cherish the bond between you and Him? Don't you miss Him in the time between each prayer, between every act of worship that you do? Are you happy, is your heart stirring, is the void inside you filling up with His love now that you can make that connection with Allaah again?

" ..Verify, in the remembrance of Allaah do hearts find rest" [Ra'd (13):28]